Inadequacy and shortage are two different things. सर, मैंने जवाब मे कहीं यह नही कहा कि सर्विसिज adequate हैं। बल्कि जो बात आपने कही, मैंने जवाब में ही यह बात कही हैं कि नम्बर अगर देखें जो नम्बर सही है किन्तु रूरल सर्विसिज मे अभी भी कमी है। आप जवाब उठाकर देखें, मैं उसे यहां पढ़कर बता देती हूं।

"The overall availability can be stated to be sufficient for the present. However, in rural and remote areas, shortage of doctors is reported." जो बात आपने कही हैं, वह मैंने स्वयं आपे जवाब में कही है। अब Inadequacy और shortage दोनों बिल्कुल अलग चीजें हैं। शार्टेज का मतलब यह होता है कि क्या देश में वे लोग हैं या नहीं। इस प्रकार शार्टेज नहीं है, नम्बर देखकर शार्टेज नहीं है, न नर्सेज़ की और न ही डाक्टर्स की। लेकिन यह ठीक है कि वे गांव में नहीं मिलते। इस बात को स्वयं मैंने अपने उत्तर में स्वीकार किया है।

श्री सभापतिः गांव में नहीं रहते।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वाराज : जी सर, क्योंकि वे वहां पर जाते नहीं हैं। जहां तक रूरल हैल्थ सर्विसेज़ का सवाल है, मैं कहना चाहूंगी कि कोई ऑल इंडिया मैडिकल सर्विस जैसी चीज नहीं है जिसमें हम लोग रूरल हैल्थ सर्विस शुरू करें। राज्य सरकारें इसे शुरू कर सकती है लेकिन हमने नेशनल हैल्थ पॉलिसी में यह बात रखी है, जिसका जिक्र मैंने यहां किया है, हमने यह कहा है कि दो साल तक mandatory रूरल सर्विस हर डॉक्टर की हो, यह करना चाहिए। हमने यह भी कहा है कि डिग्री देने से पहले आप इसको रख सकते हैं या अगर कोई पोस्ट ग्रेजुएशन करना चाहता है तो उससे पहले रख सकते हैं कि दो साल जरूरी है या फिर नौकरी देते समय हर राज्य यह कर सकता है कि पहले दो साल रूरल एरिया में आपको नौकरी करनी पड़ेगी। ये तीन चीजें रूरल एरिया की inadequacy को सामने रखकर हमने सुझाई हैं। किन्तु रूरल हैल्थ सर्विस जैसी कोई चीज केन्द्र सरकार शुरू नहीं कर सकती क्योंकि हैल्थ की ऑल इंडिया मैडिकल सर्विस केन्द्र सरकार नहीं चलाती।

Broadcasting Policy

*206. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to formulate a comprehensive Broadcasting Policy in view of the massive expansion of satellite television and private FM radio;

(b) whether a meeting was convened by his Ministry recently with the broadcasters to know their views;

(c) if so, whether the draft policy prepared by his Ministry was also discussed;

(d) if so, the views expressed by the broadcasters; and

(e) by when the Broadcasting Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) With the rapid advances in technology, expansion of satellite TV channels and private FM radio stations, the broadcasting scenario is continuously undergoing change. The Communication Convergence Bill when enacted would set up a single regulator to promote.facilitate and develop in an orderly manner carriage and content of communication (including broadcasting, telecommunications and multimedia).

In the meantime, keeping in view the broad objectives of providing increasing access to the people to broadcasting services, ensuring diversity of content, and maximum choice of platforms at reasonable price to consumers, various policy initiatives have been taken. These include changes made in the uplinking policy of the year 2000 followed up by the policy for foreign investment in news channels uplinked from India; the amendments in the Cable Act at vaious times, issue of DTH guidelines in 2001, the decision to permit private FM stations and the recent initiative of setting up of **a** Committee to make recommendations for Phase II FM broadcasting.These initiatives have been taken after a detailed consultative process.

(e) Since the broadcasting scenario is continuously undergoing change, the changes are reflected in the policies, as and when they occur. These policies would take some time to stabilise during which period, a decision is also expected to be taken on the Communication Convergence Bill. It would be appropriate to consider formulating a

policy integrating these individual initiatives thereafter. Hence, no time-frame can precisely be indicated.

DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister states that so far there is no policy on this subject and time-frame for making a policy cannot be given because the Communication Convergence Bill is under consideration. If this is so, then, I think, there will never be any Broadcasting Policy. The Convergence Bill will never come up because of the conflicting interests between the Ministry of Communication and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. That is why the Convergence Bill is not coming. So, your tying down the Policy with the Convergence Bill is not correct. Convergence is a technical, administrative matter, but the Broadcasting Policy is something different.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you put your question.

DR. A.R. KIDWAI: The Minister also says...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not necessary to quote what the Minister says.

DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Pardon me, Sir.

श्री सभापति : आप अपना प्रश्न सीधा कीजिए।

डा.ए. आर. किदवई: मैं सीधा ही पूछ रहा हूं। I am asking this in the light of the answer. The other thing that the Minister has stated is that till that Policy is made, the decisions are taken on the basis of issues as and when they come up. This is nothing but *ad-hocism.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you want to know from the. hon. Minister?

DR. A.R. KIDWAI: I want to know why the Policy has not been framed. If a policy is framed, the policy represents certain principles on the basis of which the issues are made simpler. The freedom given to the broadcasters, the freedom given for uplinking...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. The Minister has understood your question.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as the hon. Member knows, in the field of broadcasting, the technology is taking rapid advances. Depending upon the explosion of technology, we are coming up with a Policy, laying down specific guidelines under which the players have to work. We have come up with an up-linking guideline, we have come with a DTH guideline, we have come up with news of foreign players guidelines, we have come up with FM guidelines, and also put a task force to revise, as and when the need arises. But the point is, depending upon these technological advances, we are coming up with a specific draft.

As far as the combined Broadcasting Policy is concerned, I want to inform the hon. Member that we have taken two exercises. One was in the year 1997. It was before the Standing Committee, and, thereafter, the other House was dissolved. Subsequently, we also took it up. But as of now, the Convergence Commission Bill has come about; the Standing Committee has given its recommendations, including many amedments. Many of the issues which we want to address in the Broadcasting Policy have been taken care of in the Convergence Commission Bill itself. The point is, we have to take a structured view. In the meantime, the entire technological advances and the Policy which have made, which are not *ad hoc,* I want to make it clear, would also stabilise. Therefore, we would take a decision accordingly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Aimaduddin Ahmad.

DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Sir, the second question is...

श्री सभापति : अब सेकेंड क्वेश्चन भी करेंगे आप ? पहला ही बहुत लंबा हो गया है।

DR. A.R. KIDWAI: Sir, this is exactly what I mean by *ad hocism.* On each issue, when a development takes place, you will take a decision! *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question straightaway. You are a very intelligent person.

DR. A.R. KIDWAI: This is *ad hocism.* If there is a policy, the decision-making on various issues must be made simpler and easier.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, with profound respect to the hon. Member, there is no *ad hocism.* The Policy is there; it is a publicly announced policy; players are approaching; players are working. Today, players are coming, whether in radio or in television. Therefore, the policy is working. It is a properly stated guideline. The whole idea, what I can understand, is to make it a comprehensive Broadcasting Policy, about which I have already stated, we have to abide by the final decision on convergence.

SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken, and would be taken in the future, to ensure that private broadcasters adhere to the broadcasting code and the national policies and programmes, including promotion of national integration, and are catering to the needs of human development, while curbing crime and obsecenity.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as far as the broadcasting part is concerned, both in the field of television and in the field of radio, we have a proper code. For instance, in the Cable Act, we have the programme code and the advertisement code. Similarly, it is there as far as radio is concerned. Whenever we issue a guideline, whenever we issue a licence, the terms and conditions of the licence is that they have to abide by those considerations, and whenever there has been a violation, we have a mechanism for that. We have taken action, and we have also issued them a show-cause notice and asked them to stop it. Therefore, I want to assure the hon. Member that compliance of the advertisement code and the programme code is a pre-condition upon which a licence is granted.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, I think the I & B Minister is actually mastering the art of evasion with a lot of voice. Now, the question of convergence has nothing to do with all this because convergence is a technological development which is facilitated by the digitisation of the three aspects of the convergence sector. We know that broadcasting has not yet reached that stage where you can have that degree of digitisation, where convergence is possible. Therefore, the mention of the Convergence Bill here, in my opinion, with whatever little technology I understood, is totally misplaced. My point is, the less we talk about the guidelines the better My specific question is

whether the guidelines that have been issued in the FM sector are loaded against the development of rural areas, the programmes which are intended to facilitate, because there is no revenue stream. For the entertainment channel you have all kinds of things. But, actually, the mass broadcasting available in the rural areas is totally inadequate. Whatever little provisions you have made in your new guidelines, there is no revenue stream which can be sustained. Therefore, I would like to know whether you would change that aspect of the FM Policy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री सभापति : सिंहल जी, आपको तो जवाब नहीं देना है ...(**व्यवधान**)... आपको जवाब नहीं...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I don't want any police explanation on this. This is technology and broadcasting. ...*(Interruptions)*... सर, इसमें पुलिसिंग की कोई बात नहीं है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Basu, is a very senior Member. I can't compete with him, as far as his knowledge of English is concerned. To the best of my knowledge, I have never sought to avoid any reply. His knowledge about the Convergence Bill may be greater than mine. But I want to only inform the hon. Member that the Convergence Bill, as it stands today, does not talk of technology alone. It also talks of content. It talks of common regulator both for carriage and content. These are important issues. ...*(Interruptions)*... .

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : सर, कंफ्यूज कर रहे हैं ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Therefore, to say that the existing Convergence Bill confines itself only to technology, perhaps, would not be a correct Statement.

As far as the FM part is concerned, I want to inform the hon. Member that we have set up a Task Force already and the terms and conditions are formulated, including the improvement of the revenue stream. Once the recommendations come, we will take appropriate follow-up action.

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति जी, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि गाइडलाइन्स और

पॉलिसी नहीं है बल्कि सब टुकड़ों में हैं। कन्वर्जन बिल आ रहा है। सरकार इसको लेकर आ रही है और हम लोग इस पर विचार भी करेंगे। मैं स्वयं स्टेंडिंग कमेटी में कन्वर्जन के ऊपर चर्चा में शामिल रहा हूं और उस पर मैंने अपने अमेंडमेंड भी दिए हैं। आज ब्राडकास्टर को जो फ्री हैंड मिला है, आज जो ब्राडकास्टरों के ऊपर सिनेमा ओटाग्राफी एक्ट लागू नहीं है, आज जो ब्राडकास्टरों पर केबल नेटवर्क एक्ट लागू नहीं है बल्कि कन्वर्जन के आने के बाद भी उन ब्राडकास्टरों के ऊपर कोई नियंत्रण नहीं रहेगा। मेरे ख्याल से नीलोत्पल बसु जी के कहने का यह आशय है और मेरा भी यही सवाल है कि जब ब्राडकास्टरों के ऊपर नियंत्रण स्थापित करने की व्यवस्था आज की तारीख में आपके पास कोई नहीं है और यदि कन्वर्जन बिल आया तो भी आप नहीं कर पाएंगे

श्री सभापति : तो कैसे कर पाएंगे, आप बताओ?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद : सर, सम्माननीय निरुपम जी के इस सुझाव पर अवश्य विचार किया जाएगा। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

Conversion of residential property

*207. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:†

DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to restart the scheme for converting the residential property from leasehold to freehold in the capital;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme especially with respect to sub-leases of DDA plots and flats, held through the co-operative housing societies; and

(c) the number of applications received and those disposed so far?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Kalraj Mishra.